

X. OPERATING FACILITIES

ERT Information and Planning personnel can be permanently or temporarily assigned to work from any of the following operating facilities:

- A. Disaster Field Office (DFO). The DFO is any facility contracted by the Federal government to provide a fixed operating location for the ERT. The size of the area allocated to the Information and Planning Section will depend on numerous factors, including overall available space, projected number of Section personnel, and equipment and furnishing requirements. Specific material requirements and considerations are discussed in Chapter VII, paragraph VII-F.
- B. Satellite DFO. When the geographic boundaries of the disaster area are very large, or when affected regions of a single declaration area are geographically isolated from one another, the FCO may elect to establish one or more satellite DFOs. These facilities are scaled-down versions of the main DFO; the size of the supporting Information and Planning Section contingent will be situationally determined.
- C. State Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Each State (or other comparable level jurisdiction) maintains an operating facility that serves as the locus for disaster response management activities. These facilities are most often referred to as emergency operations centers, or EOCs. Many EOCs are maintained in caretaker status day-to-day, and activated only in response to a crisis. Others are staffed during normal duty hours or around-the-clock. Regardless, the State EOC will serve as the initial operating location for the ERT-A, including Information and Planning representative(s) who are not assigned to Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) teams.
- D. Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS). Among the first responders to any disaster area are deployed MERS staff and equipment, which typically include multi-media communications vans, and may include the Mobile Air Transportable Telecommunications System (MATTS). These facilities are staffed by skilled MERS communications personnel, but may be available for use by Information and Planning personnel during that initial response period that precedes DFO establishment.
- E. National Airborne Operations Center (NAOC). The NAOC is a communications-rich, large-body aircraft maintained and operated in a state of ready alert by the DoD. If not committed to support military priorities, the NAOC may be available as a rapid transportation and initial communications platform by the ERT-N. Because seating is limited, the size of the Information and Planning contingent will be situationally determined.
- F. Regional Operations Center (ROC). The ROC is the Region's disaster response management facility, and is generally operational only until the ERT has established an operational DFO in the disaster area. ERT Information and Planning personnel may be temporarily deployed to a ROC to augment the ROC Staff.

G. National Interagency Emergency Operations Center (NIEOC). The NIEOC is the operating facility at FEMA Headquarters used by the EST, when activated. The EST is typically activated only for catastrophic, multi-state, or high-visibility major disasters, and remains operational only until a DFO is established and response efforts have been stabilized. ERT Information and Planning personnel from outside FEMA Headquarters may be temporarily deployed to the NIEOC to augment the EST.